

**Regional Consultations on the preparation of the CEDAW General
Recommendation on the protection of women's human rights in conflict
and post-conflict context
11 May 2012, Istanbul, Turkey**

**Summary of inputs for new CEDAW General Recommendations by women activists from Ferghana
valley countries (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)**

I. Access to Justice

- ✓ Peacemaking agreements and commissions established for monitoring of peace agreements shall also establish mechanisms of transitional justice to ensure perpetrators committed violations of women's rights and SGBV are prosecuted and punished.
- ✓ While we recognise that it is important to follow "security first" approach (as experience of peace building in Tajikistan in 1992-1997 shows) it is also imperative to consider in the post-conflict phase violation of women's rights. If these issues are not properly addressed during peace making process, the same pattern of violation of women's rights as well as discriminating practices repeats in the post-conflict phase when women are not able to seek justice for violation of their integrity.
- ✓ It is imperative for ensuring access of women to justice to mainstream gender in reforms of security and justice sectors. These reforms shall not be limited to increasing quantity of women in the system, but continuous training of current personnel on gender and special situations and needs of women in case of sexual abuse and other forms of violence against women and overcoming the stereotype of blaming a woman.
- ✓ In the course of reforms of justice sector establish special provisions including allocation of public funds for free legal aid especially for rural women to ensure their access to justice and adherence to standards of right to fair trial.
- ✓ States should take effective measures to strengthen capacity of security staff, judicial system to prevent and respond to VAW, to undertake competent investigations and collection of evidences to ensure access to justice for victims. For this purpose within the relevant programming documents the states have to include commitments and measures for informational and educational support, for strengthening partnership with CSOs and international organizations to promote human-rights based services for civilians. A role of female staff of security institutions, their networking (through their professional associations) and increasing of their representation at the level of decision making and in the military sections, including specialized units on VAW response have to be considered by the states as key elements a of national security strategy.

- ✓ Based on experience of post-conflict countries, it is evident that initiatives for conflict prevention and resolution by local communities are very important. In this regard the state should ensure elaboration of early warning systems together with local self-governance structures. Close interrelations and coordination have to be ensured between law enforcement, health structures, crisis centers, self-help groups and local communities leaders to ensure an efficient protection and assistance in emergency situations through efficient referral mechanisms; to create conditions for secure environment (lighting, police patrolling, hot lines, security belts/corridors, etc.) in post-conflict and for preventive purposes.
- ✓ Enforcement of UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security requires fundamental reforms of law, security and judicial sectors to ensure equal and fair access to justice, overcoming discrimination on ethnic, gender and other characteristics and integration of specific needs of women and girls into relevant policies and practices. This proposes an adoption of legal and organizational measures, especially in cases of GBV, to protect witnesses and judges, to improve competency and skills of investigators and lawyers to work with affected women in conditions of confidentiality and by using relevant investigative tactics, preventing women from a further stigma, discrimination and violence.
- ✓ States have to recognize a need for development and implementation of intersectoral National Action Plan on UNSCRs and integration of UNSCRs' provisions and commitments into relevant development policies. Monitoring and reporting mechanisms established by CEDAW shall include an obligation for states to report on implementation of UNSCR on women, peace and security.
- ✓ Enforcement of UNSCRs provisions in regard of access of women to justice have to be under oversight and monitoring of civil society, the Parliament and the Ombudsman's office – a specific attention has to be paid to involvement of female parliamentarians, women's NGOs and women-activists. To ensure pro-active parliamentary control and a role for the oversight of security and judicial sector, introduction and maintaining special quota for women, especially from the excluded groups, at the stage of preparation of party's electoral lists is a key factor to ensure equal access to decision making and justice.
- ✓ Local authorities have to involve well-recognized and respected legal professionals and NGOs providing a legal aid to activities aimed at improving access to information and free legal assistance for women and girls from the vulnerable groups, ethnic and sexual minorities.

II. Violence against women

- ✓ State shall be obliged to include in the peace building process and respectively peace agreements the issue of violence against women, ensure that provisions on effective legal remedies for women and girls suffered from sexual violence, reparations and prosecution of perpetrators are part of the peace agreements. This peace agreement shall establish mechanism of monitoring of implementation of this provision.
- ✓ Since the United Nations facilitates that process of peace building and signature of the agreement (as in the case of Tajikistan), it shall also ensure that issue of violence against women is brought to the process of negotiations on peace. The focus on breaking impunity for this violation of women's right shall be brought to the attention of the State.
- ✓ Pursuant to this recommendation the state shall be obliged to collect information on number of women and girls suffered from violation during the conflict and document experiences of women to ensure their concerns are brought to the parties in conflict and their situation is resolved through peace agreements. This data shall also include number of cases invoked through the criminal justice

system to ensure prosecution of perpetrators and number of perpetrators punished for committing violence against women and girls. Monitoring and reporting mechanisms established by CEDAW shall include an obligation for states to report on number of women and girls suffered from violence, number of women and girls received reparations and number of perpetrators brought to justice for this violation of women's rights.

- ✓ State shall be obliged to ensure that any assistance including legal, psychological and medical services is provided to survivors of sexual violence during conflicts and post-conflict phases.
- ✓ Identification of scales of gender violence and needs of violence victims have to be ensured by the state as well as ensuring access of women and girls to aid and services contributing to mitigation of consequences of violence (hot lines, consultation points, etc.) and to targeted resources flows (informational, material, financial and etc.).
- ✓ Strengthening of capacity of relevant institutes and personnel to provide help and services for the purpose of adaptation of the violence victims.
- ✓ Support of structures (women NGOs, CC, women networks, community-based organizations, and etc.) contributing to mitigation of the violence consequences.
- ✓ Adoption of timely special measures on investigation of facts of gender violence.
- ✓ In relation to this, state shall impart adequate training to relevant public officials, lawyers, police officers and judges on specific needs of women during criminal proceedings of sexual violence and shift burden of proof for violation of women's integrity on perpetrators. These measures shall not be limited to existence of legislation that criminalizes various forms of violence against women, but adoption of clear instructions and formal procedures that shall be followed by the relevant personnel to ensure punishment of the perpetrators.
- ✓ During the peace building process and negotiations of peace the parties of conflict shall include into agreement on start of negotiation and peace building process (before the peace agreement is reached) that stopping the violence and military operations also include an obligation calling for establishment of safe environment for women and girls to ensure that during the period of negotiations women enjoy fully political, economic, social rights and have access to education, health and social protection available and practices such as early marriages and polygamy are not used by families to protect girls.
- ✓ In the post-conflict phase states shall enforce its obligation under article 5 of CEDAW to ensure that special programs are implemented to combat stereotypes and practices that promote subordinate status of women. As to violence against women states shall start special programs to ensure establishment of zero tolerance environment for violence against women and fighting with the practice of blaming a woman in case of sexual violence that happened during conflict and in post-conflict phase.
- ✓ Taking into account that violence against women and sexual violence, especially, become one of the most widespread war tactic, it is extremely important to consider and address the risks of violence against civilians, especially women and children, by special measures to prevent violence, protect women and children and punish perpetrators within their national security policy. Independent observance of the international legal norms on the rights and protection of the women and children in conflict situations, especially those concerned with prevention and response to the violence against them, has to be ensured along with unconditional fulfillment of all the allowed and foreseen punishment measures against those who commit crimes which according to the international law are crimes against human being.

- ✓ Real guaranties have to be secured for equal and fair participation of women from different groups in decision making related to national security. An institutional support has to be provided to women to enable to contribute to this.
- ✓ At the process of security sector and judicial reforms, gender aspects have to be taken into account – women have to participate in development, implementation and monitoring of policies in these areas. Legal, organizational, structural and functional measures have to be in place to ensure adequate response to violence against women and children, criminal prosecution of perpetrators and compensation for losses and damages.
- ✓ States have to undertake targeted public information campaigns on a constant basis to promote Zero-tolerance to violence against women and children, to improve women’s legal education, to strengthen understanding of law enforcement staff on their accountability to bring out and punish perpetrators for sexual violence, domestic violence, forced marriages, bridenapping, human trafficking. There is a need also to disseminate widely information on existing services to prevent and respond to violence against women and children. A role of women-activists, women initiative groups, local informal leaders have to be also strengthened to contribute to this.

III. Participation in the peace-building

- ✓ States, UN and other relevant regional organisation shall document and promote experience and practices of women on peace building before and during the conflict and in the post-conflict phases across the world.
- ✓ States shall be encouraged through this general recommendation to engage women, women’s NGOs and activists groups in establishment and implementation of practices of early prevention of conflicts including in the assessment of the situations and factors, which potentially may cause conflicts.
- ✓ Introduce through the general recommendation an obligation of the state to disseminate the provisions of the UNSCR on women, peace and security, provide training to relevant security sector personnel on provisions of mentioned UNSCR and establish a mechanism of implementation of these UNSCR including accountability and reporting at the national level and in the framework of the monitoring mechanism established by CEDAW.
- ✓ Through this general recommendation states shall be encouraged to undertake a comprehensive study and disseminate existing positive experiences in conflict resolution and its prevention, particularly and taking into account inputs of women to peace building processes.
- ✓ This general recommendation shall recognize the role of CSOs in mitigating and prevention of potential conflicts in the society that exists due to economic and social hardships in the country. For instance, states shall be encouraged to support and activate work of the CSOs aimed at support and protection of the women-migrants rights and rights of the wives of the migrants taking into account social consequences of migration that can potentially become sources of many negative phenomenon including those related to conflicts.
- ✓ States shall be encouraged through this general recommendation to facilitate a regional network of women-parliamentarians with participation of the current and former parliamentarians for experience sharing and joint development of the legislative initiatives aimed at conflict prevention and prevention of violence. Ensure continuation of functioning of such institutions like Inter-parliamentary Assembly that functioned earlier as General Assembly of the Women-parliamentarians from the Muslim Countries.¹ State and relevant regional organizations shall be

¹ It was established by the initiative of Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister of Pakistan

obliged to support and facilitate a network of the women-leaders at regional level to promote dialogue for peace and stability.

- ✓ Proposed guiding principles for the women peace movement in conflict situations could be recommended:
 - active promotion of non-violence and non-forced methods for conflict resolution, clear negative position to distribution of arms, open military operations and use of terroristic methods;
 - clear orientation towards a peaceful dialogue between the conflicting parties to assist in ceasing military actions and establishing peace, as well as consciously temporarily giving up active political fight for power and positions in the government in the conditions of a military conflict.
- ✓ To ensure strong networking of women-peace activists and an efficient position in peace processes and dialogues within the cross-region as the network (as it is planned within the cross-regional program) a comprehensive support is required to develop their capacity.
- ✓ States through this general recommendation shall be reminded on their obligation under Articles 7 and 9 of CEDAW to strengthen their efforts on elimination of discrimination of women in political life of the country. This obligation in the context of peace building and conflict prevention shall include strategies aimed at wider application of practice related to development of women-leaders cadre to ensure their inclusion to decision making processes at all levels such as local and central management bodies, sector ministries and institutions, leadership of the parties and movements and so on.
- ✓ This general recommendation shall also address donors and the UN with regard to issues of stronger coordination, cooperation and division of work that shall be included to the agenda of donors and UN-driven programming in conflict affected countries.
- ✓ In the peace making and peace building process States shall ensure wide participation of all levels and groups of the society. Such examples as establishment of Public Councils at the highest possible levels (for instance, in Tajikistan it is established under the President of the country²) shall be regarded as a good model for consolidation of the society. These Public Councils shall include representative of Governments (President, Parliament, Ministers and so on), political parties, national communities, public organizations, media and so on to ensure promotion of dialogue aimed at agreement of further ways of development for the society and post conflict rehabilitation. These Public Councils will have their role aftermath peace-building process to establish a platform for public participation for women, heads of NGOs, representatives of the political parties and activists and other groups of society.
- ✓ States shall be called to ensure active work through the national communities to avoid international and ethnical conflicts, as well as facilitate their equal and fair participation in all the spheres of life of the society.
- ✓ States should pay serious attention to not only ensuring access of women and girls to education, but ensuring that this education is of good quality so that it empowers girls and women and contributes meaningfully to promotion of their economic and social security and activity.

² The Public Council (PC) of the Republic of Tajikistan was established in 1996 during the civil conflicts based on the Agreement on the public accord in Tajikistan and it has been active up to date. PC is a representative, expert-consulting and coordinating body, uniting participants of the Agreement on the public accord in Tajikistan and consisting of 7 committees on the following issues: politics and international issues; youth; women; science, culture, education and information; inter - national affairs; social-economical issues; public security issues.

- ✓ States shall encourage mass media to have more active and responsible role in dissemination of information at times of conflicts.
- ✓ Dissemination of the specific women stories and their peace supporting initiatives having reflected their positions and voices in support of peace and accord has to be promoted.
- ✓ States should ensure inclusion of women as members of the peace missions, negotiations and consultations – special measures/quotas should be applied.
- ✓ Inclusion of more women in the intergovernmental consultations on cross-border natural resources management at all levels - national, regional and global, as well as on demining issues (also special measures/quotas should be applied).
- ✓ States have to ensure integration of the commitments of the UN General Assembly Resolutions 1325 and 1820 into national development programs and action plans on implementation of the commitments on promotion of human rights and gender equality.
- ✓ International community is recommended to provide joint assistance to states for reforming of the electoral and civil service systems by using existing positive best practices, application of the international HRs standards and meeting principles of the further democratization and equity. A constant assistance is needed to ensure 1) improving participation of women as candidate and as voters through a comprehensive awareness raising, trainings and sharing of information and best practices; 2) revision, enforcement and monitoring of the existing legislation to mainstream gender perspectives and overcome existing obstacles for inclusive participation; and 3) building capacity and creating a fora of local capable, knowledgeable and committed observers from representatives of NGOs, youth, elderly, ethnic and excluded groups.

IV. Women's economic opportunities

Due to specific economic burdens conflict situations leave on women through this general recommendation attention of the States shall be brought to the following strategies the states shall be encouraged to undertake:

- ✓ Strengthening capacity of civil servants to ensure gender responsive economic recovery and to implement specific measures to address needs and priorities of the most excluded groups (single women, widows, disabled, orphans and so on).
- ✓ Integration of gender aspects into post-conflict planning and budgeting at the national and local levels.
- ✓ Application of the mandatory gender review/analysis of plans/programs on social and economic restoration to facilitate reflection of needs and interests of women-entrepreneurs, widows and single women suffered during the conflict, pensioners and other vulnerable groups.
- ✓ Assist in restoration of destroyed businesses and promote economic development by granting tax preferences for businessmen, women-entrepreneurs and vulnerable layers of the population suffered during the conflict.
- ✓ Allocation of special funds by the national budgets to support economic initiatives of women affected by the conflict.
- ✓ Support paid public works for restoration of housing of people affected by the conflict with a specific focus on women-headed households.
- ✓ Provide public funds and resources to ensure people, especially, widows and households that lost main breadwinners are provided with the housing destroyed during the conflict on the priority basis.

- ✓ Prioritize restoration of the social facilities in the framework of local and municipal development plans including those in education and child care sectors so that women may take employment outside home and successfully combine work and family responsibilities.
- ✓ Introduce gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting into plans of local and municipal development processes.
- ✓ Create special schemes to improve access of women to microcredits and financial services to develop their own business – with a particular focus on women from poor families and women affected by conflicts. The existing positive practices on microcrediting without mortgage’s requirements, on creation of special fund/facility to support female formal employment and on expanding vocational training opportunities for women have to be learnt and replicated by states.
- ✓ Specifically target women as beneficiary group in post-conflict employment programs. Application of specific indicators to assess a progress reached – for example, such indicator as “neither sex receives more than 60% of employment person-days” shall be encouraged.
- ✓ Mobilize local communities and local governance institutions to implement concrete initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure and services for women in the area of employment and social protection.
- ✓ Expand advisory, information and consultancy services for women to have better access to economic and financial resources in post-conflict situations.
- ✓ Ensure participation of women in special programmes/projects on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.

Summary of inputs from the South Caucasus Women's NGOs

I. Access to Justice

- 1.1. Encourage states parties put in place accessible state legal aid services (including legal counselling and court representation) for the victims/survivors of sexual and other forms of violence during conflict and post-conflict contexts with full guarantees of a complaint's anonymity;
- 1.2. Encourage states parties to support the work of international and local organizations that have mandate and expertise to support increased access to justice of women victims/survivors of sexual and other forms of violence during conflict and post-conflict environments;
- 1.3. Encourage state parties to make legal aid free and accessible on national and local levels to all segments of conflict-affected groups (IDPs, refugees, returnees, etc.) with particular focus on women and girls; besides the consultations related with the assistance to the victims of violence, aid on realization of rights to land, adequate housing, property, provisions of humanitarian law, compensation and restitution etc., and ensure permanent information flow to increase awareness of conflict affected groups on the available legal aid services;
- 1.4. Encourage states parties to increase the awareness of judges and lawyers about special needs and security threats of conflict affected women and girls;
- 1.5. States to demand increased number of women in as well as relevant communication mechanisms put in place by peacekeeping, peace monitoring missions in order to promote conflict affected women's groups increased interaction with such missions.

II. Violence against Women

- 2.1. Encourage states parties to combat stigma associated with sexual and gender based violence during conflict and post conflict contexts in order to promote disclosure of such facts by victims/survivors;
- 2.2. Encourage states parties to join forces with civil society to collect data about the scale and scope of sexual and gender based violence committed during conflict and post-conflict context;
- 2.3. Encourage states parties to create/strengthen services and national referral mechanism for the victims/survivors of sexual violence during and in post-conflict contexts and cooperate in these actions with the civil society actors, professional groups;
- 2.4. Encourage state parties to introduce training to military and relevant civilian personnel employed in the security sector promoting zero tolerance towards sexual violence during conflict as well as introducing disciplinary and procedural measures in relevant state structures for prevention and punishment of sexual violence during conflict and post-conflict contexts;
- 2.5. For the prevention of violence and provision of security measures, to encourage state parties to communicate with the population of concern existing plans on civil defence (evacuation plans), places of shelters and names of public servants responsible for these civil defence measures.

III. Women's Participation in Peace building

- 3.1. Encourage states parties to make a clause on women's inclusion in formal peace processes and elaboration of a mechanism for inclusion of women's issues in the agendas of formal peace talks mandatory to every peace/ceasefire agreement;
- 3.2. Encourage states parties to involve women public officials in the country delegations to formal peace talks;
- 3.3. Encourage states parties to support people-to-people diplomacy initiatives of women's civil society organizations and adhere to suggestions and recommendations elaborated as a result of such initiatives;
- 3.4. Encourage state parties to support local women's initiatives contributing to prevention of conflicts/violence, establishing civic monitoring on processes and participating in post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation;

IV. Women's Economic Empowerment

- 4.1. Encourage states parties to have special stand-alone programs for women as well as gender mainstreamed in all post-conflict economic empowerment interventions that are owned by the government;
- 4.2. Encourage states parties to carry out baseline and follow-up surveys to measure economic empowerment of conflict affected groups of citizens disaggregated by sex;
- 4.3. Encourage states parties to identify barriers that conflict affected groups of women face in accessing economic resources (credit, land, equipment, markets) and put measures in place to overcome the identified barriers and to support self-reliance women affected by conflicts and the members of their families;
- 4.4. Encourage states parties to put in place measures that support access to education for conflict affected groups of girls and women (including vocational education, professional re-training widening opportunities for women of all ages);
- 4.5. Encourage states parties to make primary healthcare and health diagnostics (e.g. breast and cervical cancer screening) accessible for conflict affected groups of women and girls to reduce the risks of them undertaking critical expenditures related to healthcare;
- 4.6. Encourage state parties to develop specific programmes of employment and retraining of women and members of their families to support their post-conflict rehabilitation;
- 4.7. Encourage state parties to include conflict affected women's specific needs in the planning and implementation processes of national strategies, policies and the action plans and elaborate corresponding indicators measuring progress that will be accessible for civil society;
- 4.8. Encourage state parties to include conflict affected women and girls in the processes of planning of rehabilitation and other programmes dedicated to conflict affected population in a participatory manner;
- 4.9. Encourage State parties to take into account special needs of conflict affected women and girls during housing, resettlement and repatriation programmes.

General:

1. Encourage state parties to elaborate national action plans on women, peace and security issues in compliance with UNSCRs on Women, Peace and Security such as 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960;
2. Encourage states parties that are donors to prioritize women, peace, and security issues once planning their aid intervention to a conflict affected country.

Georgia:

IDP Women's Association "Consent"

Armenia:

Armenian Committee of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly

Azerbaijan:

Azerbaijan Committee of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly

Submission by Promo-LEX Association³, Moldova

Background: Recently, the Republic of Moldova (Moldova) marked 20 years since the armed conflict in the Transnistrian region. Ever since 1992, the Transnistrian region is referred to as a “frozen conflict” in a post soviet country. The Transnistrian region is also well known for widespread and severe human rights violations committed by the local illegal secessionist administration. After declaring independence back in 1991, Moldova ratified numerous international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women, yet none of these instruments apply on the territory of the Transnistrian region. This is due that Moldovan Constitutional authorities lack an effective (de facto) control over the territory of the Transnistrian region.

However, in its Judgments⁴, the European Court of Human Rights clearly stated that the Transnistrian region comes within the jurisdiction of the Republic of Moldova (positive obligations) and the Russian Federation. Thus, both Moldova and Russia have international law obligations and are responsible for human rights situation in the Transnistrian region. Regardless of that, both governments fail to respect their obligations in this regard. The region has become a “vacuum” territory where human rights are totally disregarded and the “frozen conflict” status has a “freezing” effect on the development of women’s rights in the region for 20 years now. Thus, while Moldova is gradually aligning its legislation to international human rights standards in relation to women’s rights, the Transnistrian region continues to operate with a soviet type “legislation” which lacks definitions of “domestic violence”, “sexual harassment”, other. For example, Moldova has Law no.5 of 2006 on ensuring equal rights between women and men⁵ and Law 45-XVI on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence. Moreover, in 2010 Moldova criminalized domestic violence, marital rape and sexual harassment – acts that represent a serious human rights problem and are also a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men.⁶ However, these provisions are not enforced in the Transnistrian region and victims of domestic violence do not benefit from protection mechanisms available in Moldova (protection orders). Thus, the most severe cases of domestic violence committed in the Transnistrian region fall under the local “criminal code” that provides rather soft sanctions for aggressors. Moreover, in the region, domestic violence is still perceived as a private matter rather than a social problem and a human rights violation. It is also important to mention that one in four women in the region is subject to domestic violence

Recommendations

³ Promo-LEX Association is a civil society organization whose purpose is to advance democracy in the Republic of Moldova through promoting and defending human rights, monitoring democratic processes and civil society strengthening. Promo-LEX Association Human Rights Program focuses on: access to justice and effective remedy for Transnistrian region inhabitants; torture and inhuman or degrading treatment; liberty and security of person and violence against women.

⁴Please see the Case of Ilașcu and Others v. Moldova and Russia, (*Application no. 48787/99*) and the Case of Ivanțoc and Others v. Moldova and Russia (*Application no. 23687/05*);

⁵Law on ensuring equal opportunities for women and men, No. 5-XVI of 9 February 2006;

⁶UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *General Recommendation 19: Violence against Women*, 11th Session, 1992.

- ✓ States should ensure equal access of women to specialized healthcare and information. Moreover, states should make sure that during conflict and post-conflict period women have access to family planning, safe and legal abortion and contraception and preventive-health services. Such services should be free of charge, accessible for both, citizens and non-citizens and should be available in rural areas too;
- ✓ States should provide qualitative and free of charge medical services for all victims, including those suffering long-term consequences of sexual, physical or psychological abuse committed during conflict and post-conflict;
- ✓ Qualified pro-bono legal assistance should be ensured by States for women victims of abuses during conflict and post-conflict period (info-line, consultations, legal representation in Court, etc.);
- ✓ States should investigate all allegations of abuses committed against women during conflict and during post-conflict period and compensate all victims. No impunity should be allowed;
- ✓ Sexual violence against women should be qualified as a crime of war and sanctioned as such. No amnesty should be allowed for such cases and the perpetrators should not be allowed to occupy certain jobs in the future (law-enforcement bodies, teaching jobs, healthcare, public administration, etc.);
- ✓ Women, victims of sexual abuse during conflict and post-conflict, in particular IDPs should receive assistance in employment;
- ✓ Women that decide to give birth to children resulting from unwanted pregnancies (as a result of rape during conflict and during post-conflict) should receive financial assistance - allowance for childcare (additionally to the allowance provided by States for all mothers). In case of women who give birth to children that suffer various diseases (HIV, other) the States should provide relevant medical and financial assistance, as well as counselling;
- ✓ Awareness-raising campaigns on preventing and reporting cases of sexual abuse committed against women in regions of conflict and post-conflict have to be carried out by both, state and non-state actors.

Specific recommendations in the context of Moldova

Moldovan Government should review its commitment and practice to apply international human rights instruments only in the territory controlled effectively by the authorities of Moldova;

Moldovan Government should create a viable mechanism that would guarantee access to justice for the Transnistrian region inhabitants, including for cases related to women's rights;

It is impetuous for Moldovan delegation to raise the issue of women's rights within the formal negotiations in 5+2 format on the Transnistrian conflict⁷. Both, Moldova and Russia (as a guarantor country in settlement of this conflict) must insist through negotiations that Transnistrian administration align local "legal" norms and procedures to ones applied in Moldova, thus ensuring that women from the Transnistrian region benefit from similar protection mechanisms as women in the rest part of Moldova;

It is also important for women to have greater representation in formal negotiations format 5+2 on conflict resolution. Parties to negotiations must include women in all phases of conflict resolution so that

⁷ The "5+2" negotiation format includes officials of the parts involved in the conflict, mediators and observers – Moldova, Transnistria, the OSCE, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States and the European Union.

women are equally represented and have a saying in a decision making process. It is also important to increase women's capacity building in participating in conflict prevention and resolution.

Within the working groups on confidence building between the conflicting parties to be raised issues related to women's rights and priorities and their effective development. Moldovan Government should examine the possibility of providing financial and technical support as well as training for regional actors; International Community should put more pressure on the illegal Transnistrian administration in relation to women's rights observance;

To this end, General recommendation should include provisions on women's rights observance within "frozen conflicts". It should also emphasize on the responsibility of the States that "de facto" and "de jure" hold control over the territory to respect and advance women's rights.